



2017. ECF No. 21. On June 13, 2017 the undersigned issued a Decision awarding compensation to petitioner based on the parties' stipulations. *See* Decision, ECF No. 22.

On December 1, 2017, petitioner filed a Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs requesting attorneys' fees and costs totaling \$37,606.13.<sup>3</sup> Motion for Fees, ECF No. 31. Petitioner's counsel notes that during the pendency of this matter, she transitioned her practice from Rawls McNelis, PC to Sands Anderson, PC. *Id.* at 7. Accordingly, fees and costs were incurred by both firms. For Rawls McNelis, PC, petitioner requests attorneys' fees in the amount of \$33,800.30 and attorneys' costs in the amount of \$1,115.27, for a total amount of \$34,915.57. *Id.* at 8. For Sands Anderson, PC, petitioner requests attorneys' fees in the amount of \$2,682.80 and attorneys' costs in the amount of \$7.76, for a total amount of \$2,690.56. *Id.*

In accordance with General Order #9, petitioner's counsel represents that petitioner incurred \$1,266.50 in out-of-pocket expenses. *Id.*

On December 4, 2017, respondent filed a response to petitioners' Motion for Fees. Response, ECF No. 32. Respondent provided no specific objection to the amount requested or hours worked, but instead, "respectfully recommend[ed] that the Special Master exercise her discretion and determine a reasonable award for attorneys' fees and costs." *Id.* at 3.

Petitioner filed a reply on December 5, 2017, reiterating her request for fees and costs. ECF No. 33.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of "reasonable attorneys' fees" and "other costs." § 15(e)(1). Based on the reasonableness of petitioner's request, the undersigned GRANTS petitioner's motion for attorneys' fees and costs.

Accordingly, the undersigned **awards the total of \$38,872.63<sup>4</sup> as follows:**

- **A lump sum of \$1,266.50** in the form of a check payable solely to petitioner, Catherine Cintron;
- **A lump sum of \$2,690.56** in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner and petitioner's counsel, Elizabeth Muldowney, Esq.; and
- **A lump sum of \$34,915.57** in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner and Rawls Law Group.

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<sup>3</sup> I have made no determination as to appropriate hourly rates in this matter; I merely conclude that the total sums requested seem reasonable and appropriate.

<sup>4</sup> This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, § 15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. *See generally Beck v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs.*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The Clerk of the Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this Decision.<sup>5</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/ Mindy Michaels Roth**

Mindy Michaels Roth  
Special Master

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<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review.